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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,563	04/15/2004	Udo Arend	09334.0012-00	9128
22852	7590	01/18/2008		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER VU, THANH T	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/18/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,563

Applicant(s)

AREND ET AL.

Examiner

THANH T. VU

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/19/20017 has been entered.

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 10/19/2007

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 1 and 24 were amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Messinger et al. ("Messinger", U.S. Pat. No. 7,000,178) and Bartz et al. ("Bartz", U.S. Pat. No. 7,080,327).

Per claim 1, Messinger teaches a user interface for guiding a user through a task requiring user interaction in a plurality of ordered steps, the user interface including a window on a computer screen comprising:

a first pane displaying an active roadmap of two or more of the ordered steps and for indicating a selected one of the two or more ordered steps (fig. 13A; task list 43; col. 5, lines 55-67; col. 10, lines 8-12));

a second pane for providing a user interface pattern, the user interface pattern corresponding to the selected one of the two or more ordered steps (fig. 13A; sequential steps 400); and

a third pane for displaying one or more activities related to activities displayed in the user interface pattern (fig. 13A; display area 50).

Messinger does not teach wherein at least one step not previously performed and not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user. However, Bartz teaches wherein at least one step not previously performed and not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user (figs. 3 and 4A-4D; col. 8, line 51- col. 9, line 3; *user can move from the Debugger subsystem back to the Device Editor system without having to pass through the Application Editor System*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Bartz in the invention of Messinger in order to allow a user in order to provide the user a greater flexibility and freedom of movement, but the user is still provided with a degree of organization and guidance.

Per claim 2, the modified Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the user interface pattern is a form (Messinger, fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 3, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 2, wherein the second pane is also for receiving user input into the form (Messenger fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 4, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the first pane is also for receiving a user election of one of the two or more sequential steps (Messenger col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 5, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the third pane is also for receiving a user selection of one of the one or more related actions (Messenger, fig. 13A; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 6, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 5, wherein the user interface initiates the associated secondary, related task upon receiving the user selection of one of the one or more related actions (Messenger, col. 10, lines 23-33; *graphical overlay 401c*).

Per claim 7, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the one or more related actions displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (Messenger, col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 8, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fourth pane displaying explanatory text (Messenger, col. 7, lines 43-52).

Per claim 9, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 8, wherein the explanatory text displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (Messenger, col. 7, lines 43-52; col. 10, lines 23-33).

Per claim 10, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fifth pane displaying core functions (Messenger, fig. 13C; user privilege 440; col. 12, lines 28-41; *the task list 43 are only displayed based on the level of user's privileges*).

Per claim 11, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein the core function displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (Messenger, col. 10, lines 1-12).

Per claim 12, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein one of the core functions is a command to proceed to the next sequential step (Messenger, col. 10, lines 44-67).

Per claim 13, the modified Messenger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein, upon receipt of the next sequential step command from the user in the fifth pane, the first pane indicates the next sequential step (Messenger, col. 10, lines 44-67).

Claims 14-24 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1-11 respectively.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the amendment have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh T. Vu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2174